

Psalms 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

Analysis

David's prayer shifts from declaration to petition, calling on God to act decisively. The imagery of striking enemies on the 'cheek bone' and breaking the 'teeth of the ungodly' depicts complete defeat - rendering them unable to continue their assault. This violent language reflects covenant curses against God's enemies and His people's enemies. Yet it's ultimately messianic: Christ defeated all spiritual enemies through the cross, breaking Satan's power to accuse and devour believers. The prayer for vindication is ultimately answered in Christ's resurrection victory.

Historical Context

This military language reflects ancient Near Eastern combat where breaking an enemy's jaw rendered them helpless. David, as God's anointed king, could legitimately pray for his enemies' defeat since they were opposing God's chosen ruler. The psalm points forward to Christ's greater victory over all forces of evil.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

2

Psalms 10:12 (Resurrection): Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.

Psalms 7:6 (Resurrection): Arise, O LORD, in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded.

Psalms 6:4 (Salvation): Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.

Isaiah 51:9 (References Lord): Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?

Psalms 35:23 (References God): Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord.

Psalms 44:23 (Resurrection): Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord? arise, cast us not off for ever.